



WILD PIG



SEMINAR

Topics

- ◎ Fun Facts
- ◎ History of the Pig
- ◎ Distribution
- ◎ Management
- ◎ Wild Pig Biology
- ◎ Fort Benning Regulations
- ◎ How to Hunt Wild Pigs?

Fun Facts About Wild Pigs

- ◉ Considered the 6th smartest animal in the world
- ◉ IQ of a 5 year-old human
- ◉ Do not sweat
- ◉ Extremely poor eye sight
- ◉ Hearing similar to humans but don't hear well while foraging
- ◉ Incredible sense of smell, better than dogs
- ◉ Piglets gain about 10 pounds a month until maturity. Boars continue gaining weight while sows fluctuate due to pregnancies.
- ◉ Boars and Sows disperse, sounders made up of females and their young
- ◉ Young males form bachelor groups
- ◉ Two Species of Fungi discovered from wild pigs sampled on Fort Benning
- ◉ When pigs are foraging all their heads will be to the ground feeding compared to deer herds which typically have one or more sentries

History of the Pig



Pig Domestication 9000-7000 B.C.



Hernando de Soto – 1500's

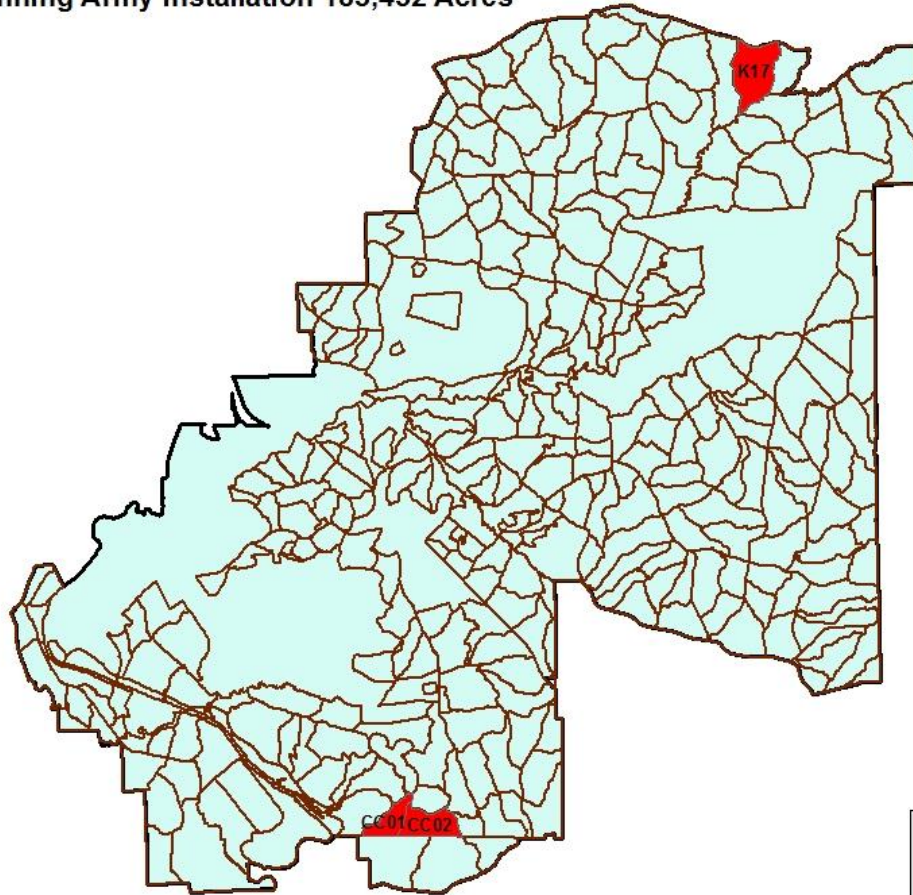
History of the Pig

© History of Feral/Wild pigs on Ft. Benning

- Occurred since 1950s
- Frequent sightings began occurring in 1994
- Sightings were from the Kilos and Charlie Charlie's
- Widespread by 1997
- It is likely pigs were illegally released on or adjacent to Fort Benning for hunting
- The other possibility is pigs escaped from local pigs farms in the adjacent areas

History of the Pig

Fort Benning Army Installation 183,452 Acres




N



Legend

 First Feral Pigs

 training_area

Distribution



Past Management

- ◎ Encouraging Hunters to harvest wild pigs
- ◎ Bounty Programs (*NO MORE BOUNTIES*)
- ◎ Trapping (had to be pre-qualified)
- ◎ Research

Present Management

- ◎ Reactive Management

- Address specific issues when pigs are causing problems (cause and effect)

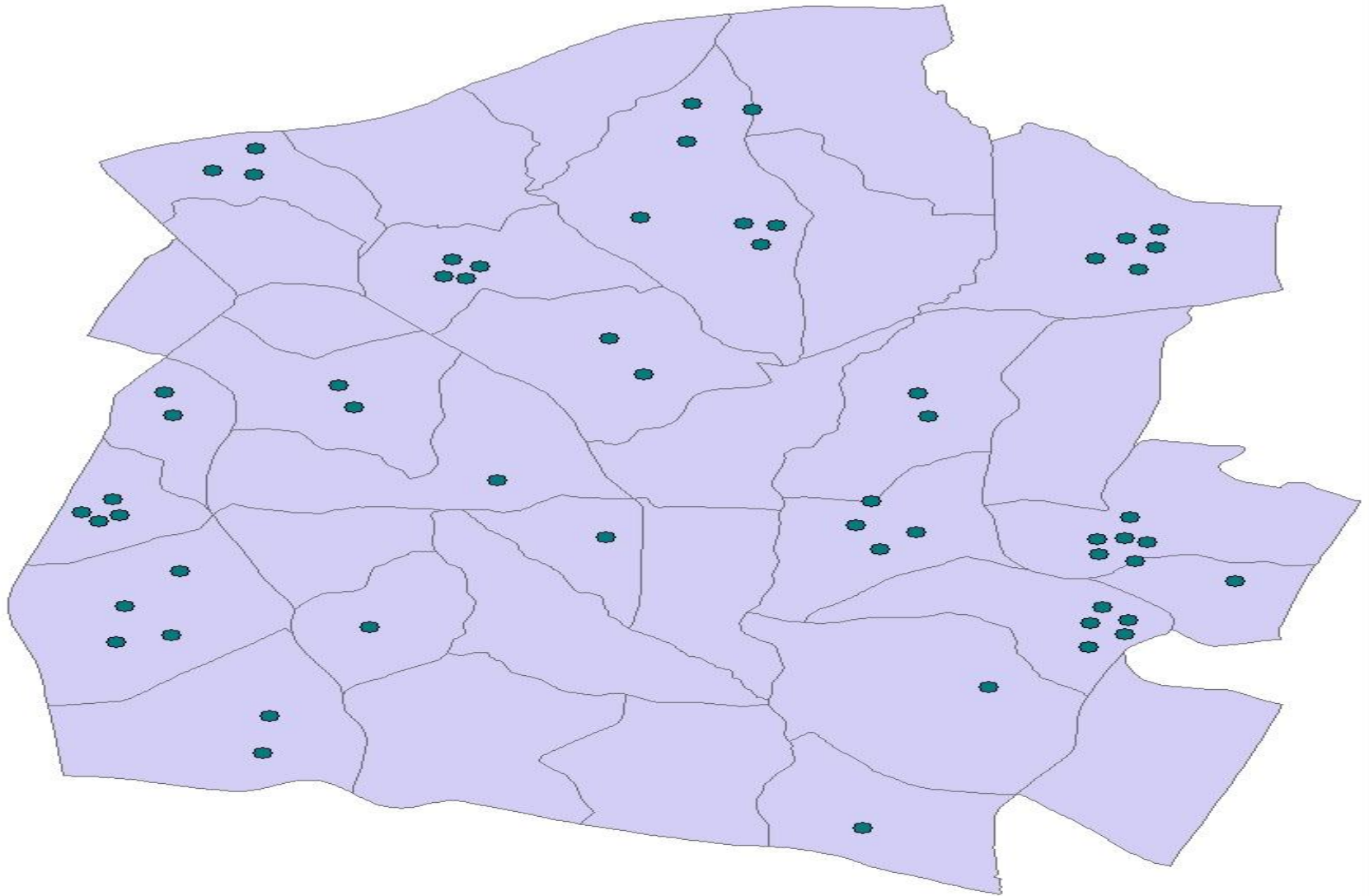
- ◎ Encourage hunters to harvest wild pigs

- ◎ Trapping (anybody authorized to hunt)

- ◎ Annual Population Surveys

- ◎ Research (Wildgranx)

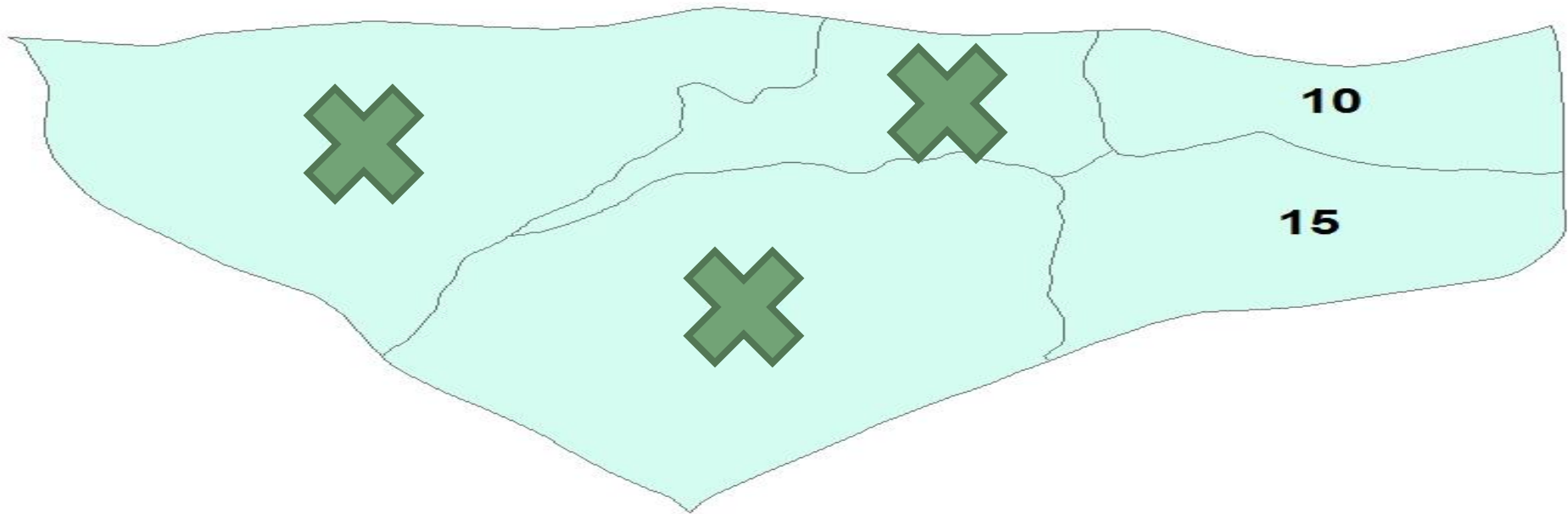
Hunting and Trapping Programs



Future Management

- ◎ Proactive management for wild pigs
- ◎ Localized Management
- ◎ Camera Surveys (Monitoring)
- ◎ Manage Impact Areas? – always a source for the theoretical sink!
- ◎ Post wide reductions/removal?

Localized Management



Wild Pig Biology

What is the definition of a feral pigs?

- ◎ Domestic pig: never been a free-roaming animal
- ◎ Feral pig: part of life as a free-roaming animal
- ◎ Wild pig: all of life as a free-roaming animal
- ◎ Wild-appearing pig: have some physical characteristics of a wild pig, but may have been in raised in captivity

Wild Pig Biology



Wild-Appearing Pig

- Smaller and Leaner
- Longer snouts
- Corse, long hair
- Straight tails with tufts
- Smaller, pointed ears
- Bodies like a bison with massive heads and heavy defined shoulders



Domestic Pig

- Large and wide
- Shorter snouts
- Usually short, sparse hair
- Curled tails
- Larger, floppy ears
- Bodies with heads and shoulders that match their body

Wild Pig Biology



Wild Pig Biology

© Life History

- Wild pigs breed year round
- Peak breeding cycle is fall and spring
- Females are sexually mature at 5 months
- Gestation period ~113 days
- Typically 2 litters per year
- Litter size 1-9 piglets
- Average litter size is 5 piglets
- Litters are dropped in a constructed nest.

Wild Pig Biology

© Habitat

- Wild pigs are an adaptable species that utilize a variety of habitat types.
- Preferred habitats are bottomland hardwood forests, marshes, swamps, and agricultural lands. Areas that are in proximity to water.



Wild Pig Biology

© Feeding Habits

- Omnivorous, opportunistic feeders
- Seasonal diets
- Roots, tubers and invertebrates throughout the year
- In the spring/summer - soft mast, native grasses, forbs, deer fawns and herpetofauna
- In the fall - hard mast
- Impact to native wildlife is of significant concern to Ft. Benning and state and federal agencies.

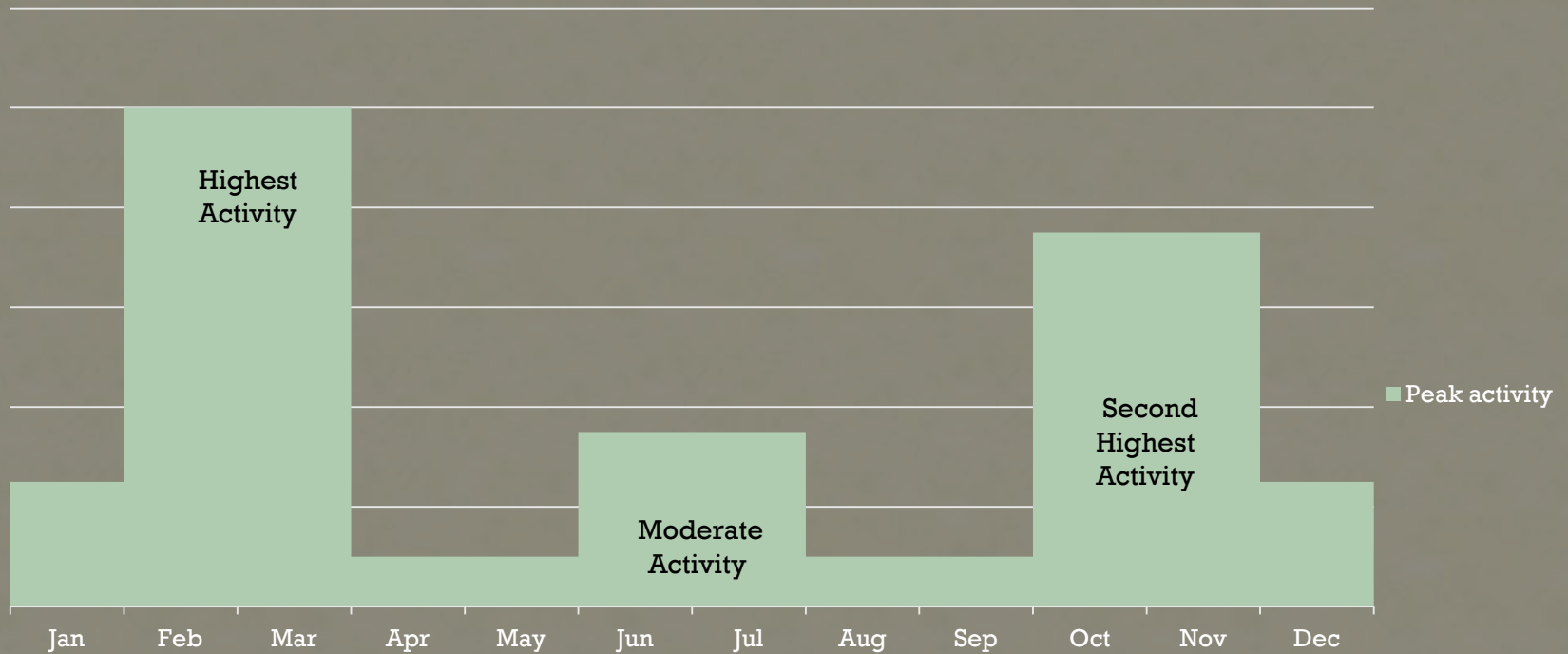
Wild Pig Biology

© Forage



Wild Pig Biology

Highest Wild Pig Activity

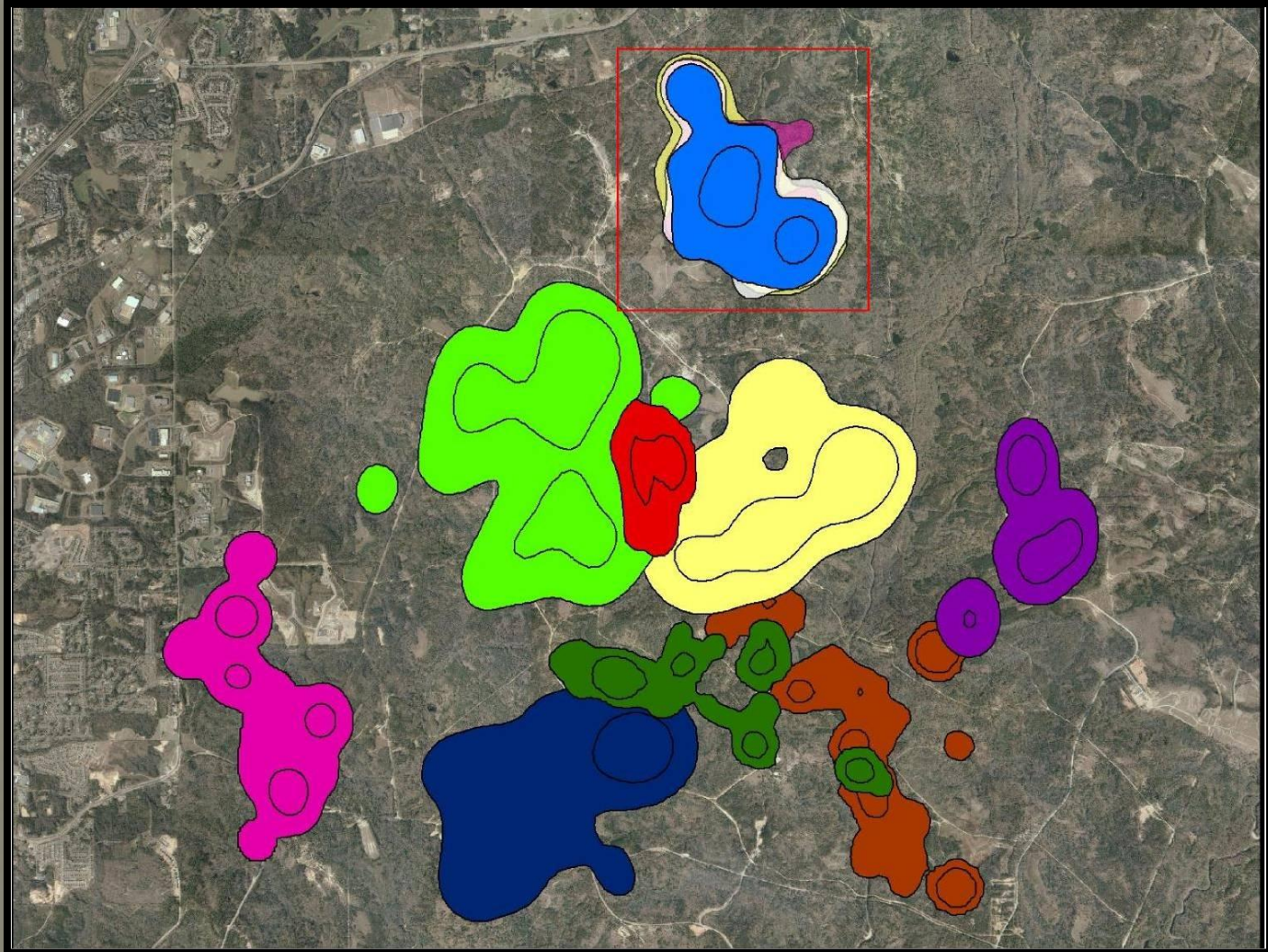


Wild Pig Biology

© Home Range Size and Behavior

- Average home range size is 3.5 square km.
- Approximately 865 acres per sounder
- Average sounder size was 11.5 wild pigs in Feb 2012
- There are exceptions on the installation with sounders reaching 20-30 wild pigs
- Wild pigs are territorial animals
- Wild pigs have multiple core use areas within their home range or territory.
- The estimated density in Feb 2012 was 2.71 pigs/km²
- Estimated 1,795-2,134 wild pigs on the installation in Feb 2012.

Wild Pig Biology



Fort Benning Regulations

- ◎ Wild pigs can be hunted year round except during turkey and deer muzzleloader seasons
- ◎ Must follow weapons regulations for compartments being hunted
- ◎ Hunting over bait is prohibited
- ◎ All pigs harvested must be called into Teltrack
- ◎ Must possess a state small game license
- ◎ Must possess a Fort Benning Post Permit.

Fort Benning Regulations

Closed Seasons on Benning

- ◎ Turkey season – no legal weapons
- ◎ Deer Primitive Weapons Season – only archery and muzzleloader
- ◎ Specific to each states' season dates

Fort Benning Regulations

Trapping Program

- ◉ Individuals who are authorized to hunt on the installation can participate in the trapping program
- ◉ Individuals can only have 2 traps with 2 alternate locations
- ◉ Individuals must have a trap permit
- ◉ All traps must be approved by the Conservation Branch
- ◉ Harvest Data must be collected on all wild pigs dispatched
- ◉ Trapping can not be conducted 10 days before and during turkey and deer season
- ◉ POC = Ben Miley, Wildlife Technician.
Office (706)544-6315 E-mail ben.d.miley.civ@mail.mil

Disease and Safety

- ◉ Brucellosis
- ◉ Tularemia
- ◉ Tuberculosis
- ◉ Anthrax
- ◉ Parasites
- ◉ Gloves
- ◉ Safe handling
- ◉ In field precautions
- ◉ Processing
- ◉ Cook Thoroughly

HUNTING WILD PIGS

WHO?

- Anyone who meets the requirements to hunt on Fort Benning as an “authorized hunter” or “sponsored guest.”
- GA (Resident or Non-resident) Small Game License Required
- Fort Benning Access Pass/Hunting Permit Required

WHAT?

**Enjoy a near-year
around hunting
opportunity on Fort
Benning!**

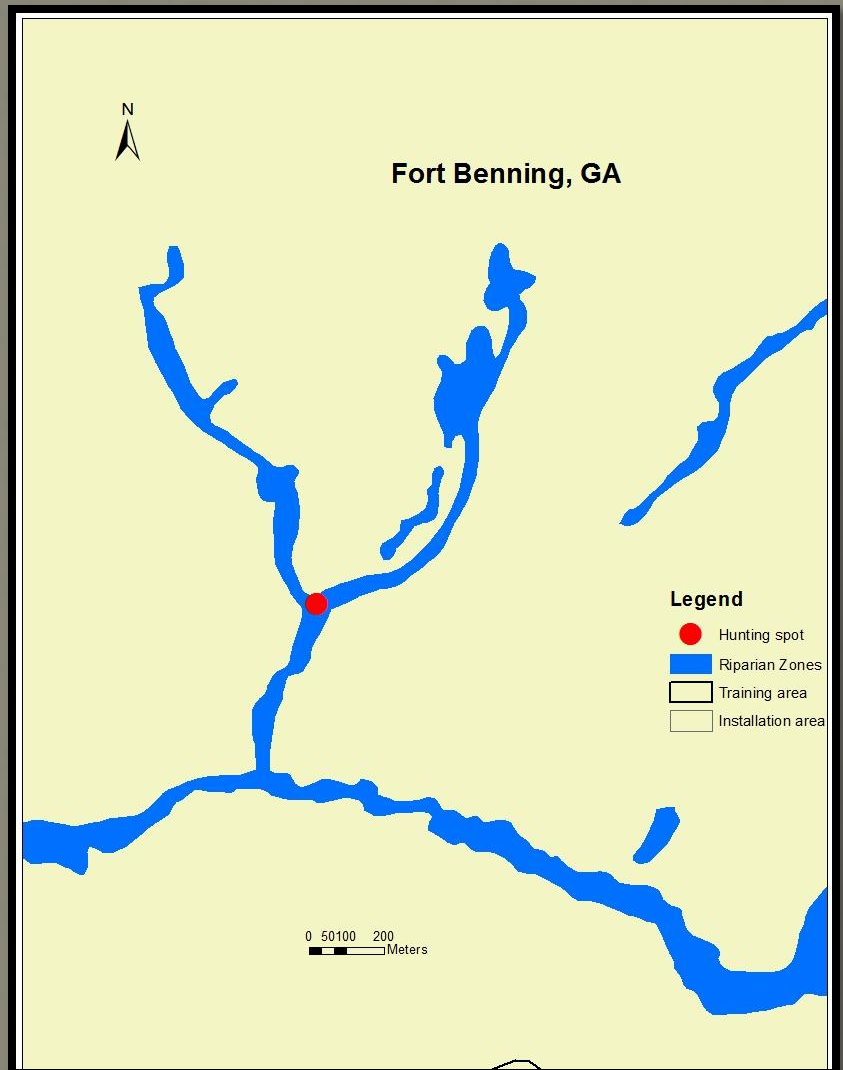
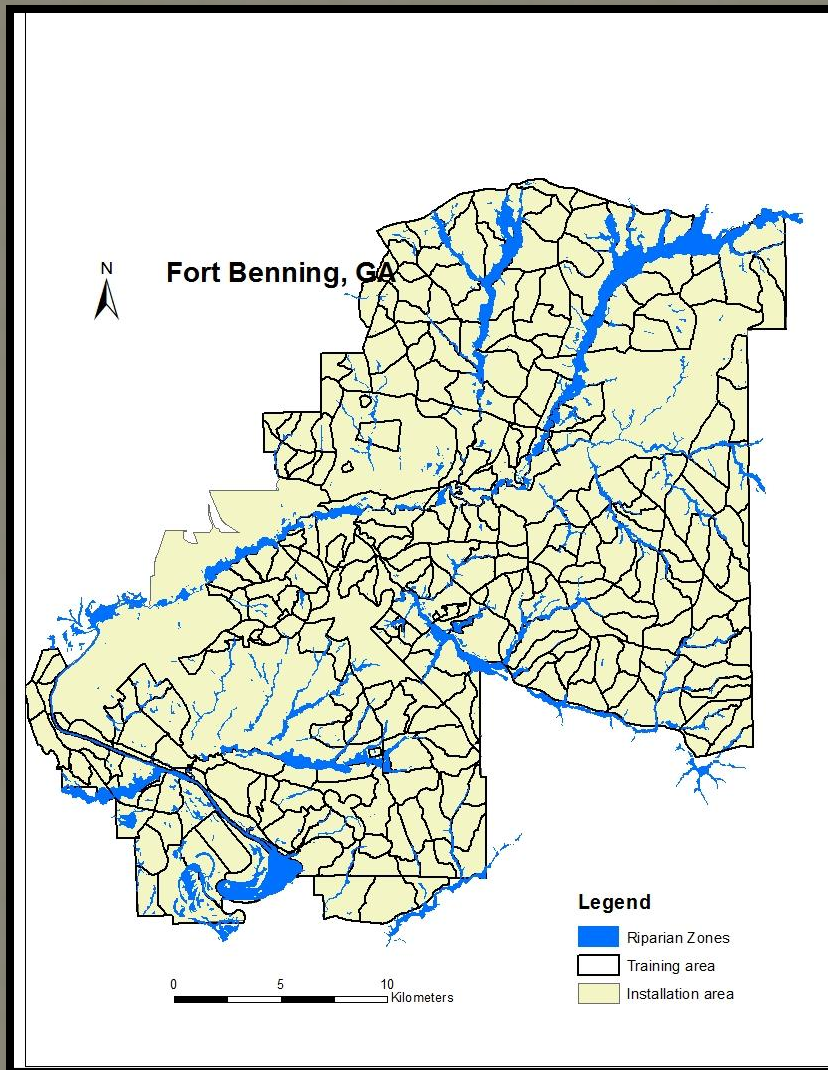
WHEN?

- ◉ Year around except during turkey season and during the 1-week muzzleloader season
- ◉ Standard hunting hours apply- 30 minutes before official sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset.
- ◉ No night hunting allowed!
- ◉ After significant rain is always good, especially in summer months.

WHERE?

- Open areas and IAW weapons authorized for those areas.
- Focus on the major creek networks, and more importantly, where they come together!
- Pigs associate with thick cover after daylight; look for thickets and palmetto clusters. Don't overlook new growth pines with briars....bedding areas.
- Get away from the roads. Walking is good!

Where (cont)?



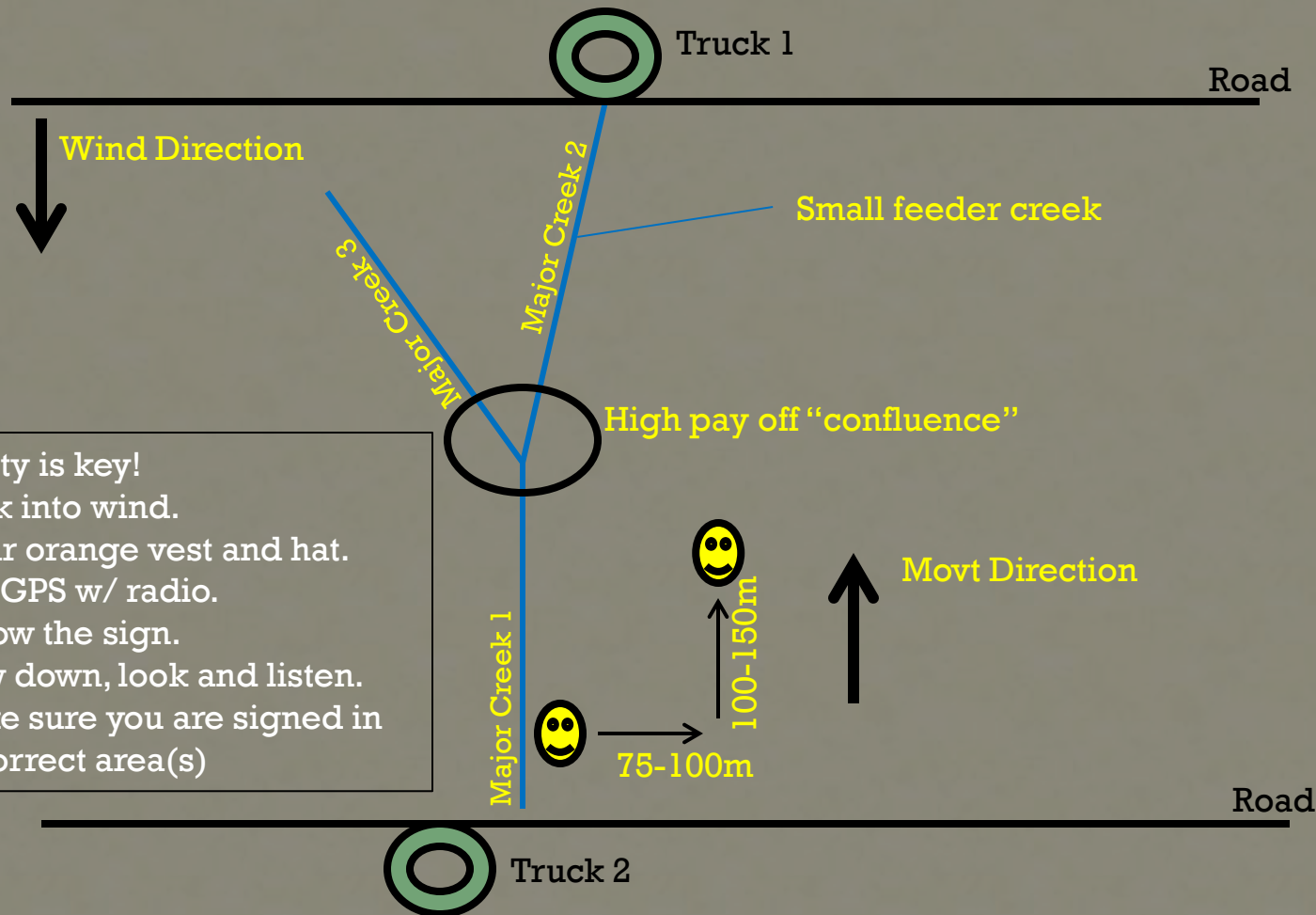
Why?

- Control the feral pig population! It is NOT a game animal.
- Protect training areas and other key infrastructure.
- Protect food sources, fawns, turkey nests and other small game animals.
- Year-around scouting opportunity and exercise.
- Fine tune hunting skills.
- Very good eating!
- Fun!

How?

- Walk, walk, walk. Still hunting vice walking through the woods.
- Wind direction is the key!
- Pay attention to the sign and follow it!
- Slow is good; listen for grunting and squealing
- Use GPS! We use Garmin Rhinos and the “Memory Map” app w/ Ft Benning topographic map.
- Hunt w/ a buddy. 2 truck and 2 man technique. Safety! Safety!
- Glassing fields can be effective at first and last light, especially during the summer.

2 Truck/2-Man Technique



1. Safety is key!
2. Walk into wind.
3. Wear orange vest and hat.
4. Use GPS w/ radio.
5. Follow the sign.
6. Slow down, look and listen.
7. Make sure you are signed in to correct area(s)

Pig Sign?



Nosing

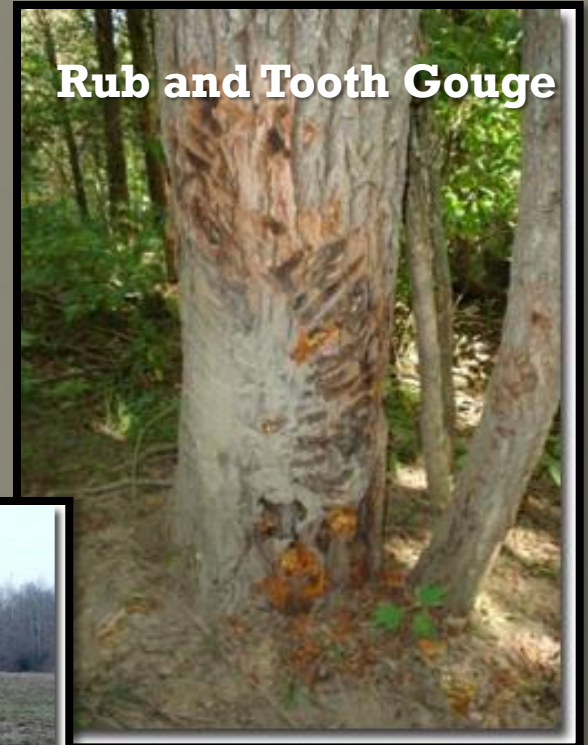


Digging



Rubs

How to Hunt Wild Pigs?



How to Hunt Wild Pigs



Wild Pig Track



White-tailed Deer Track

How to Hunt Wild Pigs



Wild Pig Track



Wild Pig Track



Wild Pig Feces



Wild Pig Nest

Equipment?



Rifle



Binos



GPS /Radio



Memory Map



Blaze Orange



Camera w/ Tripod



Rubber Gloves

Key Takeaways

- Follow MCOE 200-3 and FB 190-11.
- Hunt legal seasons and areas w/ authorized weapons.
- Hunt major creek intersections and into the wind!
- Walk slow; look and listen.
- Shoot forward and a little lower than a deer.
- Take good quality harvest photos!
- Report harvested game in TELTRAC.
- Be SAFE and have fun!!!!

Questions?

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